



THE “GOLDFARM” COLLECTION OF AUSTRALIAN KANGAROO AND MAP SERIES POSTAGE STAMPS

I have a confession. There was a time, not too long ago, when I could be accused of a certain amount of philatelic snobbery. After many years as a stamp auctioneer, having handled so many wonderful collections, I grew to believe that the only “serious” collections were traditional classic collections.

My personal bias was reinforced by philatelic exhibitions, where the 19th century classic stamps and postal history were given more attention by the public and higher scores by judges. However, as many of you know, there is a sea-change occurring in competitive philately, with so-called modern (20th century) material gaining popularity among collectors and commanding greater respect from judges.

One memorable exhibit in an FIP show changed my perspective on classic versus modern material. At the World Stamp Championship in Singapore in 2004, I had the opportunity to see Arthur Gray's exhibit of the Kangaroo and Map Series stamps of Australia. I was truly awestruck. There were eight frames exclusively devoted to Kangaroo stamps. *Eight frames of modern stamps?* I was mesmerized by the fantastic array of varieties, errors, monogram multiples, specimen overprints, shades, “OS” punctures and the like. I said to myself at the time, *I think this is the greatest single-issue collection I have ever seen.*

I had the privilege to auction Arthur Gray's legendary collection of Kangaroo stamps in 2007 for record prices. Its dispersal opened the door for collectors to begin collecting a new fascinating area that is filled with exciting and challenging items to seek and acquire. The owner of the “Goldfarm” Collection offered here thought the same thing and was motivated to embark on a new collecting area. He, too, sought out as many of the interesting monogram singles and multiples, varieties and specimens as he could find. He participated in several of the important sales of the past decade including the Arthur Gray sale, as well as the sales of the Lord Leonard Steinberg, Hugh Morgan and Stuart Hardy collections. In relatively short order he built a most impressive collection.

The “Goldfarm” collector has now decided to sell his Kangaroos and move on to another new and exciting collecting challenge. This sale opens the door for others to discover the joys of collecting perhaps the most popular stamps of the entire “classic” modern era.

— CHARLES F. SHREVE

Special Note Concerning the “Goldfarm” Collection

One of the frequent challenges in collecting a highly specialized area is the lack of readily available information in a single handbook or catalogue. Fortunately, Australian philately does not suffer from that problem. In fact, the catalogues produced by Brusden-White on all areas of Australian philately are, in our opinion, among the best in the world. The amount of detail, with virtually every known item listed, is remarkable, and the pricing is extremely accurate. Because of the specialized nature of the “Goldfarm” Collection, we have used the *The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue/Kangaroos*, 2013 edition, published by Brusden-White, for all identifications and catalogue values (in Australian dollars — at press time the Australian dollar is approximately .93 per U.S. dollar).